Nation

Volume 19, No. 21 • August 24, 2012

# AGA Suprises
## A Bountiful Harvest

$2.50 Free in Iyiyuuschii
Serving Iyiyuuschii since 1993
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

# "OPEN HOUSE - EXCAVATOR RODEO"

## *SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH WELCOME EVERYBODY!*

**Come watch or play with our big toys on the obstacle course.**
**Méchoui and show at night.**
**All the details on our website.**

MEGA CENTRE
**Kubota**
*Pro-Ab Équipements (2003) Inc*

## Contact us at 819 874-1138

## Mega Centre Kubota

1885, 3rd Avenue, Val-d'Or, Québec, J9P 7B1,
Fax : 1 819 824-9544

**www.megacentrekubota.com**

## Whatever work you have in mind...
## MEGA CENTRE KUBOTA has the equipment you need

**T**-Series, 18 to 23 HP
Lawn Tractor
Starting from $3814

**L**- 4740HST-3
47.0 HP
Starting from $31094

**BX**, 18.0 to 25.5 HP
Estate tractor
Starting from $10923

**RTV**-1140, 24.8 HP
The Transformer
Starting from $16955

**KX**-1 to 8.4 tons
10 HP to 70 HP
Starting from $22486

**GR**-Series, 20 to 21 HP
Garden Tractor
Starting from $8781

**L**-4740HSTCC3
47.0 HP
Starting from $40000

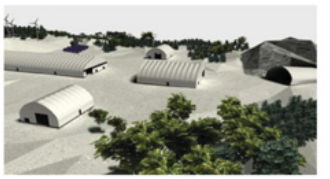
**BX**-TLB, 23.0 HP
Tractor, loader,
backhoe
Starting from $18800

**RTV**-1100, 24.8 HP
Rugged Luxury
Starting from
$21350

**SVL**-Series
75 HP to 90 HP
Starting from $53410

* Prices subject to change without notice

## MegaDome® & EzDome and camp projects



Our priority is to find you exactly what you need!
We also have available tractors specially designed for the mining industry.
At MEGA CENTRE KUBOTA, bien vous servir est notre priorité!
Contact us at 819 874-1138

# The "secular" mask of racism

by Jesse Staniforth

On Tuesday, August 14, Parti Québécois leader Pauline Marois offered a new plank for her electoral platform: a "Charter of Secularism", supposedly to guarantee the rights of Quebec residents to live in a society free from religious pressure from the state.

The idea was to make it law that no member of the Quebec government or public service could wear any religious paraphernalia. Let's set aside for the moment the obvious problem – immediately noted by legal scholars – that this would be a violation of the guarantees to freedom of religion and freedom of expression set out in both the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Freedom.

The fact is, as soon as the PQ started trying to explain what this charter would demand of Quebecers, they started to show their cards. No, they said, you could still wear a crucifix if you were a public servant ("As long as it's discreet," said the PQ's Eric Gamache, "not too big." He didn't define "discreet" or "too big"), and naturally the crucifix in the province's National Assembly would stay up (part of our cultural heritage, they say). There's been no comment from the PQ about the disparity between having a religious symbol that seems to represent the entire state as Catholic and having individual citizens employed by the state expressing their own religious beliefs on a personal level.

Of course, the people this law would affect would not be white people – it's about making it illegal to display that you are a Sikh or Muslim, because hijab headscarves and Sikh turbans are, to use Gamache's obnoxious term, "ostentatious."

The PQ rolled this new ideology out as part of its introduction of their new candidate for Trois Rivières, Djamila Benhabib, a militant anti-Islamic author and activist born and raised in Algeria. Obviously having a candidate of Arabic extraction was important to the PQ in launching such a clearly racist policy. Which is why it was so funny when Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay, evidently a white supremacist, tore into Benhabib on Paul Arcand's radio show and turned the whole project on its ear.

"[We're] going to allow ourselves to be told how to behave, how to respect our culture, by someone who comes here from Algeria, whose name we can't even pronounce," seethed Tremblay. He had, apparently, given no thought to how difficult it had been for Cree, Innu and other First Nations in the region that became known as Quebec to pronounce the names of French Europeans who turned up here a few years ago. At press time, a call to Tremblay's office asking how well he spoke Cree or Innu, and whether he had participated in any of this year's powwows had gone unreturned.

But in an interview on CBC's Radio Noon, on Wednesday, August 15, Tremblay clarified that "A Québécois is a person who speaks French and is a Christian." Perhaps the Grand Council could help educate him by forwarding a copy of their 1998 book Never Without Consent, in which they explain why the distinction of "Québécois" has been problematic since the beginning?

Meanwhile, the PQ has not yet returned our call asking whether the proposed Charter of Secularism would ban Elders from blessing public events in the Eeyou Istchee. It's nonsense anyway – there's no way they could make the Charter into law without running afoul of the constitution. But that's never been the issue. The issue here is the same as it's always been – white people reminding other white people that they come first in this province, like they have since their forefathers washed up on this continent 500 years ago, convinced like children that because they "discovered" it, the whole place must belong to them.

## Contents


**editorial**
- The Rule of law 3

**rez notes**
- Fests galore 4

**news**
- Bridge over Uupaachikus Pass 5
- Ungava candidates battle 7

**features**
- AGA Surprises 10
- AGA Waskaganish 2012 Resolutions 15
- Legend Series: Hunting with My Father 20
- Terres en vues festival 27
- Diabetes 2012 30

**borderlines**
- Public lands, private gains 32

**UTNS**
- More storms on the horizon 33

photo by:
**Will Nicholls**

# Fests galore

by Sonny Orr

The mini rollercoaster zooms by with screaming people, the other cries come from far above on another wild ride... yes, it's summer time folks. Time to relax, sit back and enjoy what the southerners like to call amusement parks. The screams debate, just for a minute, then climb into the high notes as the coaster does a three-sixty. Magically, some coins appear from the heavens and gather in the area that no one can get to, behind a wire fence. I notice some credit cards and sunglasses, a Blackberry or two bleeps FB's, barely discernible over the din of the thousands of happy people. I clutch my wallet closely, just to make sure it's still there, then try out some cotton candy.

Besides all the neat wonders that amusement parks are known for, Cree World has been busy too. It seems that the weekend events over the course of the summer are pack full of events everywhere, and it's wedding time too. After witnessing a number of weddings, it's nice to see people dressed up for a change. Suit rentals must go nuts as Cree weddings number into the hundreds of participants – just for the wedding party and getting them back all intact must be the wedding planner's nightmare come true.

Then there are all the powwows and good old getting-out-on-the-land, coming-back-to-the-past events. Wow, it boggles and wonders the mind at the same time. Just how many people are out cavorting around? And there's still time left before September, then it's back to the grind of work and school.

Back in the day, regional powwows and games were the main attraction, with live bingos that took all night to an end, then the fiddle strikes up and the dance takes over. People had stamina in those days, dancing until the sun rose. Then, the summer Olympics struck a chord with pillow fighting and carrying bags of flour, the sacks weighing in at 50lbs each and each competitor had to carry it with a head strap over a certain distance. I think that those who won this contest would probably survive a minor car crash without suffering from whiplash. Using bows and arrows were a popular competition and, of course, what event didn't have the mile-long tug-of-war with nearly everyone pulling against each other. Whatever the game was, it sure was a lot of fun and everyone played.

Canoe races really were long events, when crossing the river and back, fighting the currents and winds, and, of course, taking a smoke break here and there, made sure that our roots in canoeing and plying the waters of the North was part of our lives. Log sawing and wood-chopping skills were put to the test and many times, the women proved that they were just as capable, as this was usually part of life and normal, except during competition, the wood chips flew and flurries of sawdust hit the sand ground from a finely honed saw.

Sharpshooters would show off their ability to put lead dead on at a mile away and homemade shot shells were sacrificed for some fancy shooting shows. The high-powered rifles needed binoculars just to see the results as targets were picked off a mile away. Wow, eat your heart out Annie Oakley!

Whatever turns you on when it comes to making your summer one to remember for years, or at least until the next long weekend, sometimes it's worth the effort to check out the local neighbourhood for a good time.

*the Nation* is published every two weeks
by Beesum Communications
This paper contains 70% recycled materials

EDITORIAL BOARD
L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, N. Diamond, E. Webb
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls
IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb
COPY EDITOR
Martin Siberok
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
M. Della Posta, S. Orr, A. German, A. Levitas, J. Staniforth, X. Kataquapit,
PHOTOGRAPHY
A. German, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, D. Valade
DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick
SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
K. Larocque
DESIGN AND LAYOUT
R. Lawson
THANKS TO: Air Creebec
WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
*The Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
*The Nation* HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.nationnews.ca
E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: for Danielle Valade
ads@beesum-communications.com
for Ginette Gregoire
publicity@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: Séri Jacobs-Pepin
sjacobs@beesum-communications.com
SUBSCRIPTIONS
INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:
$60 PLUS TAXES, US: $90, ABROAD: $110
PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS
PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642
*The Nation* IS A MEMBER OF:
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
MAGAZINES CANADA
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC
We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.
**facebook.com/NATIONnewsmagazine**

# A bridge to greater development

## Mistissini gives bridge over Uupaachikus Pass the go-ahead

by Amy German

After being talked about for many years, the long-awaited bridge in Mistissini over Uupaachikus Pass linking the community with land across the water is finally going to happen. Motivation for building the bridge is not only for residential development, but also for what lies on the other side – gravel.

Without any gravel left for public works projects, Mistissini was approaching a dire situation where they were on the verge of having to import natural granular material from Chibougamau and so the hunt began for where the community could find a new source.

According to Emmett Macleod, Director of Municipal Services for Mistissini, this new project is critical for the community because it will affect all public works projects whether they are for private-home builders, local businesses, institutional projects or community projects.

"Mistissini has zero gravel. This means for a house project, a local business project or a Band Council or School Board project, we have no gravel to provide for it and so works cannot happen.

"If we were to do any project, we would have to buy gravel from Chibougamau and the cost would go through the roof as we would then have to truck it in.

"If we are constructing a road, a facility or housing, these projects require gravel. Some of it is sand, some of it is coarser gravel and different sizes of gravel have different uses," said Macleod.

This shortage was foreseen in 1999, which is when investigations were started in order to find a natural borrow pit or to create a new quarry. Going with a natural borrow pit cost about 3.5 times less than a quarry and so that was the direction that Mistissini chose.

According to Macleod, two borrow pits were located on the west side of Uupaachikus Pass about 4.5 kilometres away.

The development of a feasibility study was completed which looked at different ways to access the material, such as an ice bridge or driving around (via the ICON road), but in the end the best and most cost-effective long-term solution is a permanent bridge.

The project has been in the planning stages for the past four years and this includes surveying, soil testing (geotechnical) as well as an environmental impact assessment for the bridge and accompanying road project with a 2013 completion date.

The first two priorities behind building a bridge were to access the natural granular requirement for any future projects and then reduce the costs as much as possible. A third priority is to access and then develop new residential lots, which will happen in about seven years according to Macleod.

With the community of Mistissini rapidly expanding, the demand for housing and the land needed to develop it on would be shortly running out if it weren't for the new 300+ lots that this project will be opening up on the other side of the bridge.

And, with the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay announcing that 52 new units will be built in Mistissini as part of their new Agreement with the Quebec government, this project couldn't have come at a better time.

"This is how crucial it is for Mistissini. We currently have about 50 lots available that are ready to go. You could put houses on these lots because the infrastructure is ready. With our current needs and with the Health Board's needs, these lots will be filled up within the next two years or two and a half years," said Macleod.

The project should be completed in the summer of 2013.

# AGRITIBI R.H. INC.

AGRICULTURAL / FORESTRY / INDUSTRIAL / MINING

1-888-732-6296

Guaranteed
POWERTRAIN
And hydraulics
3 years 5000 hrs

Rentals Available

**0%** on 36 months

**1.9%** on 60 months

**FOR 20 YEARS NOW, WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING OUR FAMILY BUSINESS AND GROWING ALONG WITH YOU.**

AGRITIBI RH has become the resource in the agriculture, mining and forestry industries. WITH OVER 32 EMPLOYEES in the Amos region, we take excellence, competence, employee engagement and customer satisfaction to heart since 1991.

819 732-6296 • 1 888 732-6296 • 2711, route 111 East, Amos • www.agritibirh.com
Serge Rivard • serge.rivard@agritibirh.com



# BEST VALUE ATV.

***NEW!* Sportsman® 400 H.O.**

Hardest Working Smoothest Riding Features:

— ***NEW!*** Integrated front storage box has 6.5 gal. volume
— On-Demand True AWD maximizes traction
— Legendary smooth Independent Rear Suspension with 9.5" of travel
— A full 11.25" of obstacle-clearing ground clearance

FIND YOURS TODAY AT:

**Martin Auto Centre**

1832, 3e Avenue O. Val-d'Or, 819-824-4575

Sportsman 400 **$5,600**

Sportsman 500 **$6,050**

Vehicles shown with optional accessories. Avoid operating Polaris *RANGER*s on paved surfaces or public roads. Riders and passengers should always wear helmets, eye protection, protective clothing, and seat belts. Always use cab nets. Drivers of *RANGER* vehicles must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license. Warning: ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: Avoid operating Polaris ATVs on paved surfaces or public roads. Riders and passengers should wear helmets, eye protection, protective clothing and seat belts. Polaris adult ATV models are for riders aged 16 and older. Be sure to take a safety training course. For safety training information in the U.S., call the SVIA at (800) 887-2887, see your dealer, or call Polaris at (800) 342-3764. In Canada, see your local dealer. ©2011 Polaris Industries Inc.

POLARIS

# Platform talk

## Ungava candidates battle over Plan Nord

by Mark Della Posta

Change or the status quo? That's the choice facing the First Nations communities living in the Ungava district.

While the Quebec Liberal Party (PLQ) trumpets the promise and potential of the Plan Nord, the Parti Québécois (PQ) and the Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) are presenting the idea that they can bring positive changes for the communities that will be affected by the province's northern development plan.

Gerald Lemoyne is running for the PLQ in Ungava, trying to unseat PQ representative Luc Ferland. Lemoyne, the former mayor of Lebel-sur-Quévillon, argues that the Plan Nord was conceived with and for the people it will affect most.

"We worked with the Cree Nation in developing the Plan Nord," said Lemoyne. "Having been designed with the people living on the territory, the plan will lead to its development, and was constructed, first and foremost, to benefit those very people."

Lemoyne also spoke of the dangers that come with giving the PQ a chance to run the government. He accused the PQ of trying to obstruct the Société du Plan Nord, the group given the task of overseeing the implementation of the project, from its inception.

For his part, Ferland wants his constituents to know that the Plan Nord, although good in theory, still suffers from major flaws.

"We've never been against northern development," said Ferland. "We adopted a policy of northern development in 2001 under PQ leadership. We're convinced that we can get more for our resources.

"In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the mineral market was weak," he added. "Right now, we're in a period where the price of minerals is booming. With only a 16% return, what happens to the Plan Nord if the mineral market softens? The 16% returns on natural resources is utterly insufficient."

Ferland, as well as CAQ candidate Stéphane Robichaud, also criticized the Plan Nord for focusing solely on the extraction and exportation of raw materials.

"The government has consistently refused to consider the second and third transformation of raw materials," said Ferland. "We think it's possible to process these materials right here in Quebec, to create twice the amount of jobs. We're convinced that the Plan Nord was designed for partisan and political interests."

Taking a similar tone, Robichaud warned that the current structure of the Plan Nord leaves many northern communities vulnerable to market forces.

"The CAQ has a more integrated approach," he said. "It's one that, if the price of minerals changes on the world market, the industry won't die and we won't be left with ghost towns."

In response to these criticisms, Lemoyne has argued that the government is getting the best possible deal with regards to the return on natural resources. Referring to a recent study conducted by strategic management giant KPMG-SECOR, he argues that the current plan has been proven to be the most effective way of attracting investment to the province.

Aside from development strategies, the competing candidates warned that representation and corruption should also be on the minds of voters when heading to the ballot box.

"I'm not from northern Quebec and nobody knows me, but to me that's an advantage," said Robichaud. "When nobody knows you, you don't owe anything to anyone. I don't have a municipality that I'm forced to please because I used to be the mayor.

PQ representative Luc Ferland

PLQ candiadte Gerald Lemoyne

"I want to stress the idea of representation," he added. "This is a huge region with distinct communities and distinct goals. I'm responsible to the entire district."

Ferland added that giving the PLQ another term in office would be a dangerous situation, especially for the First Nations communities of northern Quebec.

"Like all Quebecers, the Cree population is watching the news," he said. "The people are aware of all the events that touch on the issue of corruption. This region is about to see a huge amount of construction, in roads and within Cree communities. That comes with a sense of urgency to clean up the government."

Rounding out the list of candidates is Sylvain Couture with Québec Solidaire and Dominic Hamelin-Johnston with Option Nationale.

EXTENDED

SUZUKI

Way of Life!

SIZZLING SUMMER SALES EVENT

COME SEE US AT: Martin Auto Centre
1832, 3e Avenue O. Val-d'Or, 819-824-4575

FROM JUNE 1st TO AUGUST 31st PURCHASE ANY SUZUKI OUTBOARD AND CHOOSE

UP TO $2,000 IN SUZUKI DOLLAR$

OR

GIMME 6

3 YEAR FACTORY WARRANTY
+
3 YEAR NO CHARGE SUZUKI PROTECTION PLAN

+

UP TO $1,000 IN FACTORY RETAIL INCENTIVES!

SIZZLE INTO SUMMER AND SAVE ON SUZUKI OUTBOARDS

WWW.SUZUKI.CA

Up to $2,000 Suzuki Dollars applies to eligible retail agreements completed between June 1, 2012 and August 31, 2012. This offer valid only on select new and not previously registered Suzuki Outboards. Suzuki dollars can be used only towards the purchase of the particular model to which those Suzuki dollars apply and are available only at participating dealers, on select models only. Amount of Suzuki dollars applicable depends on the model and is subject to availability of the model. 3 Year No Charge Protection Plan is a supplemental coverage plan underwritten by Coverage One and begins immediately after your Suzuki New Vehicle Warranty period expires.PDI charges from $132 to $528, freight charges from $40 to $115, taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration are extra dependent on model. Specifications, product features and colours are subject to change without notic Read your owner manual carefully and remember to observe all the safety regulations. See your participating authorized Suzuki Dealer for availability and complete details. Suzuki Way of Life.

## Whapmagoostui holds elections

Election season is in full swing. Quebec is in the middle of a provincial campaign, and the US is heading towards an election in November. Now it's time for the First Nation of Whapmagoostui to get into the voting spirit.

With nominations wrapped up on August 8, Whapmagoostui is holding elections on Tuesday, August 28.

Up for grabs are the positions of Chief, Deputy Chief, Woman Councillor and the regular council seats. For the position of Chief, the incumbent Stanley George will be facing off against Lost Mamianskum, who held the post from 2006-2009.

In the running for Deputy Chief is incumbent Victoria George paring up against Frances Kawapit, Jr., George Masty, Elijah Sandy, John Shem, and Louisa Wayne. The candidates for Woman Councillor are incumbent Jean Masty, Laura Ekoomiak George, Diane George Dick and Flossie Sheshamush Wynne.

For the regular councillor seats there are 15 candidates in total for six seats with four defending their positions being Donnie Dick, William Kawapit, Roger Sandy and Robbie Masty. Their challengers are Allan House, Rebecca Kawapit, Benjamin Masty, James Masty, Matthew Petagumskum, Bruno Sheshamush, Brian Wynne, Jacob Dick, Annette Masty, Isaac Masty and Noah Sheshamush.

Remember, your ballot is your voice. So vote.

## Nemaska holds annual golf tournament

The fifth edition of the Nemaska Golf Benefit held at the Belvedere Golf Club on August 2 was a resounding success with over 200 attending the golf tournament and supper and $115,000 being raised.

The proceeds from the tournament went towards the Albert Diamond Foundation as well as the Christopher Wapachee Memorial Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on youth programs. The Cree Nation of Nemaska contributed the sizeable sum of $40,000.

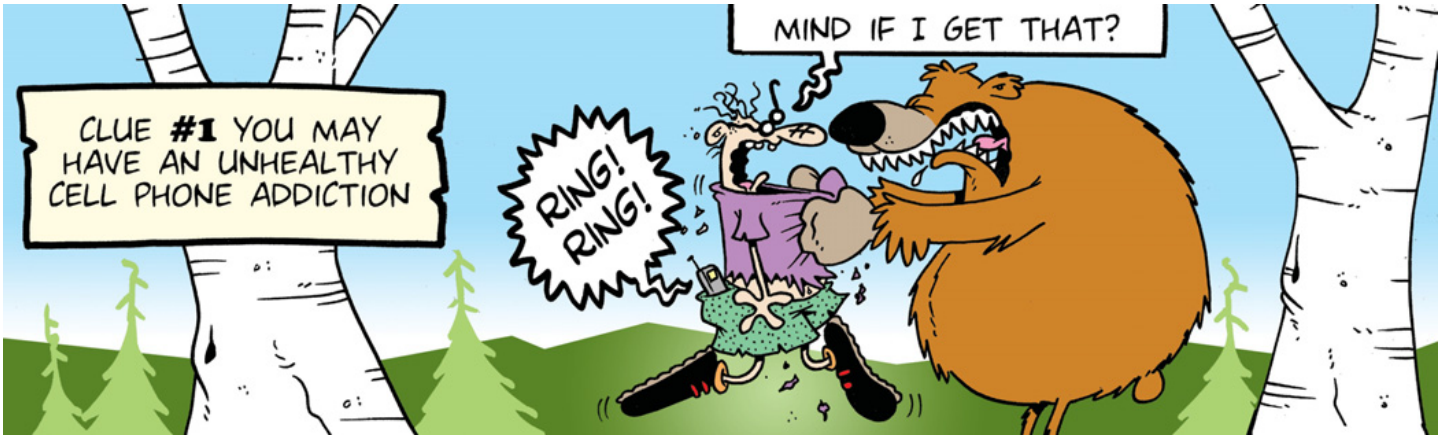
The president of this year's event was Nemaska Chief Mathew Wapachee with guest speeches by Grand Chief Mathew Coon Come and NDP MP Romeo Saganash. The entertainment for the evening included local artists and musicians along with live painting and an auction for the artwork.

The Nemaska Golf Benefit started with the initial goal of raising $250,000 in five years. How things have turned out far exceeded this early goal with the benefit reaching $630,000 in four years.

Benefit organizer Robert Kitchen said, "This year's benefit was the most successful one we have ever had."

Now the Nemaska Golf Benefit has set its sights on reaching the million-dollar mark during the event's eighth year.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com



# AGA surprises

## Waskaganish hosts the three-day Annual General Assembly

by Will Nicholls

Nothing could have prepared the Crees of Eeyou Istchee for this year's Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees and Cree Regional Authority. It would have been unthinkable 20 years ago to see Hydro-Québec's (HQ) top people and smiling Crees in the same room, but that's what happened. Like any good magician Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come pulled a rabbit out of the hat. HQ President and Chief Executive Officer Thierry Vandal and Hydro-Québec Generation President Richard Cacchione were welcomed guests. Waskaganish Chief Gordon Blackned said, "Today these gentlemen are our guests and we will treat them with respect, as is our tradition with all guests." Blackned talked about the need for jobs and the need to grow. He added that there was also a "need to preserve the land, the need to protect our language".

Blackned said, "To me this Agreement you are going to sign with us here today symbolizes a very important tool to help us in the struggle with this challenge." Another Agreement was in the works and ready to be signed. This *Agreement Concerning the Re-Appropriation of Territory Affected by the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert Project* though was different as it dealt with ongoing operations and a steady income to carry them out. Once again the Cree have stepped into the breach and as with the Paix des braves and New Relationship Agreement are taking on more obligations. Blackned is pleased with the Agreement but knows it will be hard work. He said, "The challenge is not over and will not end for a long time. It will take every member of community, every trapper and every young person to reclaim our river."

Coon Come said people have asked him about how he felt about dealing with HQ. He said, "This is a normal question because I was such a vocal and strong opponent in the opposition on

the Great Whale Project. Well nothing has changed. I am the same Grand Chief who loved the land, who cherished everything he learned from his father about caring for the land and his family. I am the same Grand Chief who will do the best he can to protect his people and their rights. I haven't changed, through our years of struggle."

The Agreement will be in effect "for as long as the Rupert River partial diversion is in operation...." Coon Come said, "This means the funds and a real relationship will be in place so long as the project is in operation. This is the change we fought for." The Nadoshtin and Boumhounan Agreement only guaranteed $540 million in contracts for the Cree, but even there were signs of the changes. To date Cree contracts total $1.2 billion and Coon Come praised HQ for using the $540 million "as a minimum".

In describing the Agreement, Coon Come said, "The construction phase is over and the machinery is gone. It is time to go back, back to the land finding new ways to care for it, most important to go back with the youth of community to make sure that our traditions and values live on. This Agreement will give us the tools that we need to ensure so long as our community members and, more importantly, the youth of today need help, it will be there."

Waskaganish will see a communal boat landing area, channel markers, channels and portages will be fixed and

work done on the first rapids (Smokey Hill). As well $9.75 million will be given to Waskaganish to work on the Northern Channel. $1,389 million is set aside for Environmental Sciences training. A fund will be created where the Cree will assume certain HQ obligations on human impacts in the Rupert River Basin. Waskaganish, Nemaska and Mistissini territories have been affected and HQ will deposit $2.75 million per year to the fund. There will be a review of the diversion project every three years.

HQ President Vandal said he was pleased to be in Waskaganish to sign this agreement with the Cree Nation. He said the continuing and growing relationship between Hydro-Québec and the Cree is something we can all be proud of now and in the years to come.

Of course we cannot forget Sol Awashish, tireless fighter against the diabetes epidemic in the Cree Nation. He walked many a kilometre from the James Bay Highway to Waskaganish, where local residents joined him. The message was simple – exercise and eat healthy. The last part though was difficult as prices for healthy food is high, while pop and chips cost about the same as in the south. (See Health Matters on page 30 for more on diabetes.) The arrival of the marchers was louder than usual as they were banging pots and pans. Queenie Stephen of Waskaganish said, "We are bringing our pots and pans to show everyone here, many times they are empty because many families cannot afford healthy foods." She added that "junk food is cheaper than healthy food" and asked the leaders to find government programs that would sub-

sidize the high cost of food "so we can feed our families and children good food". Stephen said this would go a long way to dealing with the high rate of diabetes locally.

The day wasn't over and delegates were invited to a feast hosted by CreeCo and Air Creebec to celebrate their 30th anniversary. CreeCo President Jack Blacksmith said he was pleased to be a part of the successes achieved in the past 30 years and gave credit to the employees and leadership that made it all possible. Blacksmith pointed out that Air Creebec was one of the very real Aboriginal success stories. "In the beginning, the attitude was that Crees couldn't fly," Blacksmith told the Nation. "Air Creebec and CreeCo showed we could not only fly, but Crees can do business with the best of them." When someone joked about the cost of a ticket they were told buying a ticket seven days in advance there was a 50% reduction.

After honouring 35 employees who had been with Air Creebec 20 years or more, the Albert W. Diamond Foundation was pre-launched. Pierre Ouellet, coordinator of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation – Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance and Dr. Ted Moses hosted the launch. Remembering Diamond Ouellet said, "For all his people, for the people of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, he was a true friend. He provided time for everyone.

It was not for money, it was not for his own results, it was to help."

Moses added, "Considering that Albert was dedicated to support education, Youth and business development, he was always there for others with his values. The Foundation will also follow in his footsteps…." Moses said the Foundation will work with the family and others to continue the work brought about by Albert Diamond's vision and values. A cheque for $150,000 was presented to get things going.

The night was far from over as back at the Gathering Place in Waskaganish, Air Creebec hosted an evening of entertainment beginning with comedy from Queenie Stephen and James Jonah. They were followed by local talent Darryl Salt, Vincent Beauregard and Ben Lim. Well-known former Juno winner Lawrence Martin wowed the crowd. Ending the night were Mariame Hasni and then Cree Rising. All of this and it was only the first day of the AGA.

On the second day, minutes and financial statements were looked at and approved. No big surprises there. Reports from various Cree entities were presented with little fanfare.

Mistissini delegate Thomas Coon though remarked that while he didn't understand all the numbers in the financial statement, "it's Cree money and we must tell them (Crees) what we

have done with it". He said the stories of what succeeded and failed must be told, "because we are accountable to the people".

A guest speaker who had a real impact was 13-year-old Wes Prankard from Niagara Falls, Ontario. The quote "a child shall lead them" was never so true as when he spoke. This young man went to Attawapiskat and felt he had to do something. Prankard said Pepsi had a contest. His idea was to build a playground and he won the top prize of $25,000. That was when Prankard found out a playground costs $100,000. He raised the rest of the money and created Northern Starfish in the process. This foundation will be looking at creating two foster homes for Attawapiskat at a cost of $500,000. Another goal is 10 more playgrounds for other disadvantaged northern communities.

While a bag went around for people do donate money, the Grand Council started the ball rolling with $2500. Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio said he was touched by Prankard's action and encouraged him to continue with Mistissini matching the Grand Council donation. Waskaganish Chief Blackned felt inspired and said, "People on the West Coast deserve this help adding another $2500. Chisasibi Chief Davey Bobbish said, "I hope our Youth follow in your footsteps," and pledged $2500 as did Waswanipi Chief Paul Gull, who added $2500 to the growing pot. Cree Health Board Chair James Bobbish said the issues in Attawapiskat relate to their social issues and mandates pledging $2500 as did Eastmain's Deputy Chief Johnny Tomatuk. Bobbish said he would work on a series of volunteer visits to help out in Attawapiskat.

Cree School Board Chair Kathleen Wooten was glad to add another $2500 followed by Washaw Sibi, Oujé-Bougoumou and Youth Grand Chief Joshua Iseroff matching the amount.

Wemindji Deputy Chief Dennis Georgekish said his community was good for $3000 and Darlene Cheechoo of CreeCo matched them.

Nemaska Chief Matthew Wapachee added another $2500 and said his community had signed an allegiance agreement with Attawapiskat and would be visiting the community next month. Whapmagoostui Chief Stanley George said, "We were touched by your efforts and vision as a youth." He hoped his community's $2500 would help Prankard to keep going and spread his message. Aanischaaukamikw Foundation president Abel Bosum along with $2500 said to Prankard, "If you ever run for Prime Minister, you have my vote." Prankard replied, "I don't want to run for government. They argue and argue and meanwhile we need to get things done."

The Regional Council of Elders said the "goal of the Elders is to encourage and support youth such as yourself ", backing their words with another $2500.

Both Grand Chief Coon Come and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iseroff personally threw $2000 each into the growing total.

When the bag finished its rounds another $2544.24 was added bringing the final tally to $52,799.24.

Air Creebec told Prankard they would provide airfare and transport of items to Attawapiskat. The Nation donated a quarter-page ad to Prankard and the Northern Starfish Foundation for those who wish to help out. Prankard is asking that people donate their soon-to-be-obsolete pennies to continue the good works he sees as necessary.

The evening saw three people honoured by the Grand Council: Eeyou Police Director Reggie Bobbish (received medal from the Governor General of Canada); the Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute President Dianne Reid; and former Youth Grand Chief Stacy Bear. Then it was time for a little square dancing to kick off the night.

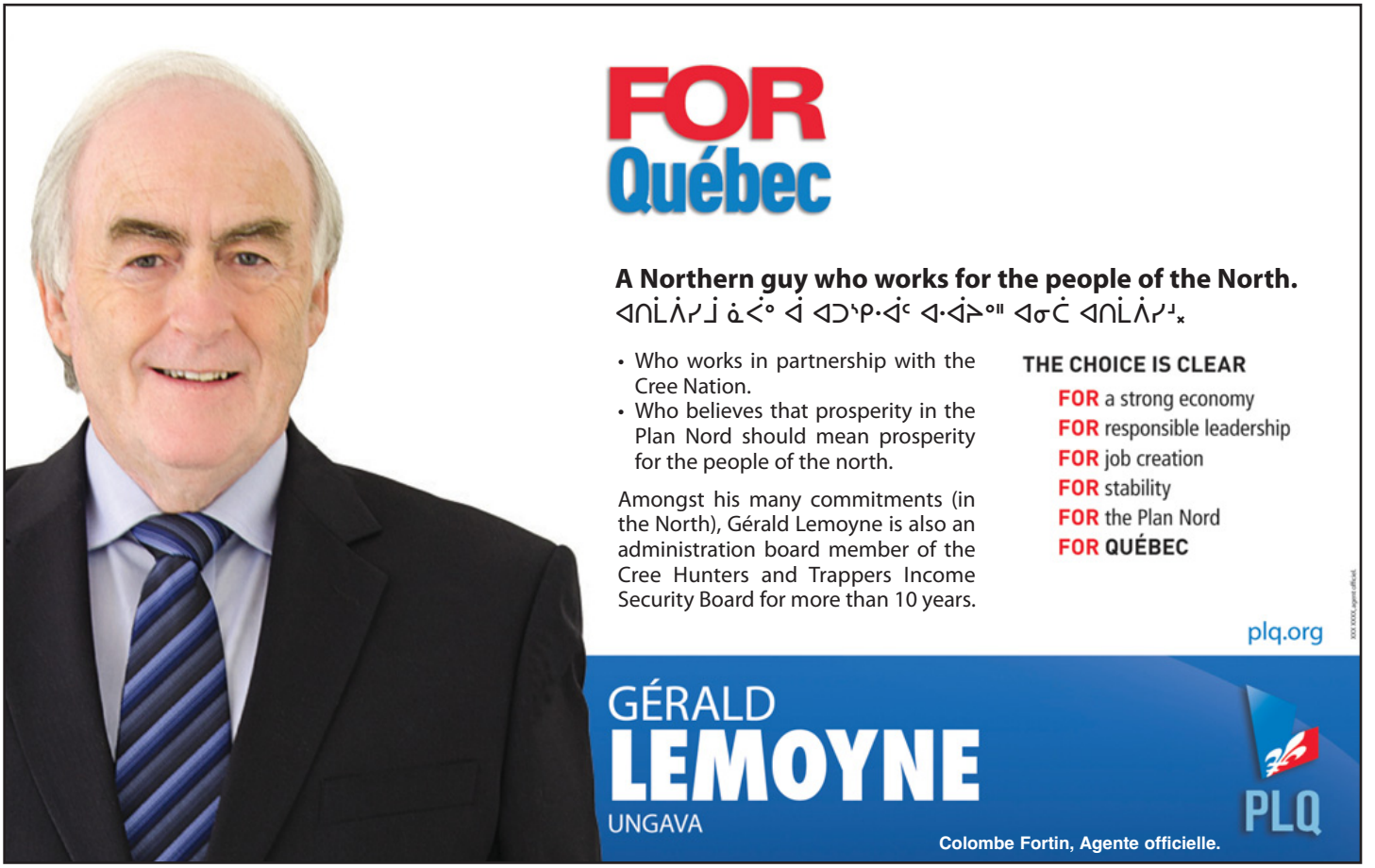
The next day saw a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Grand Council of the Crees and Dr. Denis Lamblin on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Lamblin said he came to the AGA "because there is a real desire from the Cree Nation to address a very serious threat that it faces". He said the Crees weren't alone and that other countries were having to deal with it. But "many countries in the world are afraid to tackle

this major public health issue although it affects millions of people."

Lamblin expects Crees to be an example for the rest of the world and would "implement measures that can guarantee equal opportunities to all babies at birth". There will be a story on FASD in the next issue of the Nation as it could not be adequately covered here. It is one that affects more Crees and communities than you would expect. When asked for a show of hands if they knew someone who had been affected by FASD, a majority of the attendees raised theirs.

And yes Crees did respond and passed a resolution declaring a permanent moratorium on uranium mining, exploration and waste emplacement in Eeyou Istchee. Strateco was quick to respond saying only the Quebec government could do so. Even so the uranium presentation included a section on Cree Rights in Eeyou Istchee, which stated, "The Cree Nation has always asserted its fundamental human right to consent or withhold consent to industrial or other development in Eeyou Istchee." Coon Come said six out of 10 Crees polled were opposed to uranium mining. A Cree Nation Uranium Strategy is the next step for the Crees, which could see the same level of mobilization that the fight against the Great Whale hydroelectric project saw. (More on this topic in a future issue of the Nation.)

All this and more was packed into only three days of hard work. Congrats to Waskaganish for being such a great host of this year's AGA.


FOR
Québec
A Northern guy who works for the people of the North.
ᐊᑎᒻᒪᓕᕆᔨ ᓴᓵᐤ ᐃ ᐊᑐᖅᑭᐃᑦ ᐊᓐᔨᐦᐤᐦᑊ ᐊᓂᑕ ᐊᑎᒻᒪᓕᕆᔨᓱᓄ
• Who works in partnership with the Cree Nation.
• Who believes that prosperity in the Plan Nord should mean prosperity for the people of the north.
Amongst his many commitments (in the North), Gérald Lemoyne is also an administration board member of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board for more than 10 years.
THE CHOICE IS CLEAR
FOR a strong economy
FOR responsible leadership
FOR job creation
FOR stability
FOR the Plan Nord
FOR QUÉBEC
plq.org
GÉRALD
LEMOYNE
UNGAVA
PLQ
Colombe Fortin, Agente officielle.

# AGA Waskaganish 2012 Resolutions

## DRAFT RESOLUTION
## SUBJECT: FIGHTING DIABETES

**WHEREAS** community members of Waskaganish and representatives of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay have brought to the attention of the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority the current status of diabetes:

**WHEREAS** diabetes continues to be a serious threat to the well-being of the Cree Nation requiring greater efforts of awareness and education by all public institutions of Eeyou Istchee:

**IT IS RESOLVED**

THAT the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority hereby request that all public entities, including but not exclusively the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority. Councils of the Cree Nations of Eeyou Istchee, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay, the Cree School Board, the Cree Trappers' Association, Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association, the Elders' Council, the Cree Nation Youth Council devote time in the agenda of governing meetings to identify representatives for the development of concrete measures, such as subsidies, media campaigns, or educational programs to bring awareness to the threat of diabetes to the Cree Nation and educate the Cree Nation on healthy practices to help bring an end to diabetes.

## SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THE CREES OF THE WASKAGANISH FIRST NATION AND ALL CREE COMMUNITIES.

**WHEREAS** the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation has adopted and tabled a Resolution at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority in relation to the negative impact of the current policy/program of the Cree Regional Authority on "Space Allocation" for public building related to community centers and that this may create a barrier to the community's ability to meet the needs of community members for public space for communal activities;

**WHEREAS** the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation has adopted and tabled a Resolution at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority in relation to the need for the construction of a community swimming pool;

**WHEREAS** the Crees of Waskaganish First Nation has adopted and tabled a Resolution at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority in relation to the allowable allocation for housing unites subsidies requesting that it be raised to one hundred and forty thousand dollars ($140,000.00) to reflect the actual costs of constructing in the community due to poor soil conditions;

**WHEREAS** the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation has adopted and tabled a Resolution at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority in relation to the state of the access roads for communities requesting that efforts be to ensure that there are proper maintenance budgets and required improvements such as paving;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THA**T the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority hereby mandate the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority to undertake efforts to assist the community of Waskaganish in meeting its community center needs, the increase of the housing unit subsidy to reflect actual construction costs in the

community and the request for swimming pool facilities;

THAT the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority hereby mandate the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority to undertake efforts to address the needs for the paving of community streets and the necessary maintenance and improvement to the access roads of the communities of Eeyou Istchee.

## SUBJECT: CREE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

**WHEREAS** the Cree Trappers' Association had developed and implemented a Trapper Training Program in the past as a pilot project with the assistance of the Cree School Board and the Ministry of Education of the Government of Quebec;

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of Cree traditional knowledge, expertise and know-how is not standardly required to be included in all natural resource development environmental assessment and protection programs;

**WHEREAS** the Niskamoon Corporation has developed and administers College certified environmental sciences programs which included elements of Cree traditional knowledge;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority hereby mandate the Cree Trappers' Association, the Cree School Board, the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority and the Niskamoon Corporation to seek cooperative action to ensure the revival and delivery of Cree Science and Technology Programs.

## SUBJECT: WASKAGANISH HOSPITAL

**WHEREAS** the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation has adopted and tabled a Resolution at the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority in relation to the need for the construction of a new hospital in Waskaganish;

**WHEREAS** the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority recognize that the current medical facilities in Waskaganish, the third largest community in Eeyou Istchee are insufficient and the expansion of current facilities is unfeasible;

**IT IS RESOLVED**

**THAT** the members of the 2012 Annual General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority hereby support the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation in their claim for the construction of a new hospital in the community and mandate the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay to initiate discussion with the Council of the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation on the construction and operation of a new hospital in the community of Waskaganish.

## CREE NATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AUGUST 8, 2012 WASKAGANISH EEYOU / JAMES BAY CREE NATION / EEYOU ISTCHEE PERMANENT URANIUM MORATORIUM

**WHEREAS** the Eeyou, the James Bay Cree Nation, has owned, lived in, gov-

erned and protected Eeyou Istchee for millennia and since time immemorial;

**WHEREAS** the Cree Nation possesses and exercises our inalienable fundamental aboriginal and other human rights, including the right of self-determination;

**WHEREAS** the economies, culture, way of life and well-being of Eeyou are inextricably tied to the land, the waters, the fish and animals, and all of the environment of Eeyou Istchee and adjacent lands and waters;

**WHEREAS** Eeyou have always carried out and affirmed our responsibility to protect the land, the waters, the fish and animals, and all of the environment of Eeyou Istchee, for all current and future generations;

**WHEREAS** Eeyou are committed to the principles of sustainable and equitable development and responsible stewardship;

**WHEREAS** uranium mining exploration activities have been pursued by other governments and corporations in recent years in Eeyou Istchee;

**WHEREAS** uranium exploration, mining, milling, refining and transport, and radioactive and toxic uranium mining wastes, create unique and grave risks for human health, and the environment, both today and for thousands of future generations;

**WHEREAS** the risks inherent in uranium exploration, mining, milling, refining and transport, and in radioactive and toxic uranium mining waste, are incompatible with our stewardship responsibilities in Eeyou Istchee, and pose a grave threat to our way of life, economies, culture, and well-being;

**WHEREAS** there are no independently established or objectively known ways to effectively mitigate these risks on the time-scales that are involved in uranium mining, milling, refining and transport, and in radioactive and toxic uranium mining waste, namely hundreds of thousands of years, and indeed there are grave doubts about these issues especially where they have affected other indigenous peoples in their lands and waters;

**AND WHEREAS** the people and the Cree Nation of Mistissini, the first Cree community located close to proposed uranium exploration and mining, has expressed its total opposition to these activities and called upon the Grand Council of the Crees and Eeyou to support it in this opposition;

**BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT EEYOU, THE JAMES BAY CREE NATION:**

1. Declares and enacts a Permanent Moratorium on all uranium exploration, mining, milling, refining, transport and uranium mining waste emplacement in Eeyou Istchee;

2. Authorizes and mandates the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee), the Grand Chief and the Board of the Cree Regional Authority to take all necessary and appropriate steps as may reasonably be required to ensure the full and immediate recognition and implementation of this permanent moratorium in Eeyou Istchee and to give effect to this Eeyou Assembly Resolution.

## GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE)/ CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2012. SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON GOVERNANCE IN THE EEYOU ISTCHEE JAMES BAY TERRITORY

**WHEREAS** a dispute arose between the Crees and Québec regarding (i) the Act to amend the James Bay Region Development Act and other legislative provisions (S.Q. 2001m c, 61) and (ii) the Act respecting the ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la recherche (S. Q. 2003, c. 29) with respect to the Regional Council of Elected Officers and the Regional Development Fund;

**WHEREAS** on May 27, 2011, the Crees and Québec signed the Framework Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory ("Framework Agreement");

**WHEREAS** the Crees and Québec undertook in the Framework Agreement to negotiate a final Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory:

**WHEREAS** representatives of the Crees and Québec have negotiated the "Agreement on Governance in the

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES 2012

## SABTUAN ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES

### ALL THE BEST FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU!

**General Education**
Keanu Turgeon, Ariel Coon, Samuel Miaseven,
*Absent:* Caitlin Petawabano, Justin Coon

**Drilling and Blasting**
Ivan Coonishish-Coon, Jeremiah Longchap, Martin Miaseven,
*Absent:* Craig Petawabano, Jonathan Miaseven, Mathieu Miaseven

**Northern Building Maintenance**
Ronnie Trapper, Wayne Fireman, Stanley Loon,
Eddie Coon, Samuel Miaseven

**Accounting**
Darryl Miniquaken

YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US!

Pictures by Harriet Petawabano Trapper

Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory" ("Governance Agreement")

**WHEREAS** the Governance Agreement aims to promote greater autonomy and greater responsibility on the part of the Crees for governance on Category II lands in the Territory, in particular with respect to land and resource use and planning;

**WHEREAS** the Governance Agreement also envisages greater participation by the Crees in the governance of the Category III lands within the Territory in partnership with the other residents of the Territory;

**WHEREAS** the Governance Agreement is based on a governance model which relies on the principles of sustainable development, partnership and respect for the traditional way of life of the Crees in accordance with the provisions of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement ("JBNQA") and the Agreement concerning a New Relationship between le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec concluded on February 7, 2002 ("Paix des Braves") as well as the government orientations and policies as adapted to take into account the context of the Crees;

**WHEREAS** the Governance Agreement does not contemplate and does not affect the obligations of Canada towards the Crees stipulated in, among other, the JBNQA and the Agreement concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee concluded on February 21, 200/ ("Federal NRA");

**WHEREAS** representatives of the Crees and Québec have also negotiated a draft Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory;

**WHEREAS**, at a meeting held on June 26, 2012, The Council/Board of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority adopted Resolution 2012-19 approving the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory and the Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the gouvernement du Québec on the basis of the drafts of such Agreements, dated June 26, 2012, which were submitted to and reviewed by that meeting;

**WHEREAS**, by the same Council/Board Resolution 2012-19, the Grand Chief / Chairman, the Deputy Grand Chief / Vice Chairman and such other persons as the Grand Chief may designate were authorized to sign the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory and the Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority;

**WHEREAS**, on July 21, 2012, the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory and the Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory were signed in accordance with Council/Board Resolution 2012-19 for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority;

**WHEREAS** it is appropriate for this General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority to approve the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory and the Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the gouvernement du Québec and to ratify the signature of such Agreements, which have presented to and reviewed at this General Assembly;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT this General Assembly of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority does hereby approve the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory and the Agreement on certain Matters related to the Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the gouvernement du Québec and does hereby ratify the signature of such Agreements on July 26, 2012 for and on behalf of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority.

# ᑲᓇᑕᒥᐅᔨᖓᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᕗᑦ

## ᐃᓐᓇᐃᔭᖅ ᓴᖅᓯᓐ ᐅᑦ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᑎᓴᒋᒧᑦ, ᑎᓴᒋᐹ ᓯᓚᐅᓐ ᐅᑦ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓂᒪᖅ ᑭᐅ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᒋᓴᓂᐊᓕᖅᓯᒪᖅ

ᐊᑲ ᓱᖅ ᓴ ᑎ ᐃᓐ ᑎᓴᒋᒧᐅᔨᓐ ᐊᓂᔨ ᑭᓯᓴ ᓄᓐᓕᖅ ᐃᓐ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᓱᐃᓐᓇᐃᔭᖅ, ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᓱᐃᓐᓇᐃᓐ ᐊ ᓂᔭᖅᑐᑦ ᐊᑲᑐ ᐃᓐᑕᒥᖅ ᐊᓂᔨ ᑭᓯᓴ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᐃᓐᓇᐃᓐ ᐊᑲᑎ ᑎ ᓱ

·ᐊᓂ ᐅ σԺᓂᑦᐤ ᐊᓐ ᐊᐩᑎᔪ ᐊ ᕿᑎ ᔅԺԺᓯᖅ ·ᑲᔪᑦ, ᑦᓐ ᒐ Δ"ᑐᑦᑦᖅ ᑦᕿ ᒥᑎᔪᑦᑐᑲᒪᒋᑦ ᐊᓐ ᑲ Δ"ᑎᑦᖅᓗᒐ ᐊᓐ ᑭ·ᕿᑎ ᑎ Δ"ᑎᑦᖅᓗᒐ ᓴᓂ ᐊ ᑎ Ժᓂᑎ ᐊᓐ ᐊᐩᑎᔪ ᐊ ᕿᑎ ᔅԺԺᓯᑦ ᐊσᑦ σᐱᓗᖅ, σᑎᔪᖅ ᑦᕿ ᒥᑎᔪᑦᑐᑲᒪᒋᑦ ᒐ ᐅᓐᑦᖅᓗᒐ ᐊᓐ ᑭ·ᕿᑎ ᑎ ᕿᑎ ᔅԺԺᓯᑦ ᐊσᑦ σᐱᓗᖅ, ᑲ ᑎ Δ"ᑎᑦᖅᓗᒐ ᓴᓂ ᐊ

AUTOMOBILE BARRAUTE
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep

Your consultant: Yvon St-Pierre
yvonstpierre@barrautechrysler.ca

No. 1 Dealer in Eeyou Istchee.
To fulfill your needs!
819-825-0880

2012 Dodge
Grand Caravan Crew

2012 Dodge Ram
Long Horn

215, 3eme Avenue, Val-d'Or, Quebec • 1-888-250-7081 • barrautechrysler.ca

CHRYSLER DODGE RAM Jeep

ᐊᑯᐅᓕᖅᑐᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐱᓕᕆᔨᒃᑯᑦ ᐊᑐᐊᖅ

# Hunting with My Father

**Told by Eliza Bobbish Webb, Chisasibi**
**Transcribed and translated by Brian Webb**
**Beesum-communications.com/legends**

I wanted to share the story of the times when I went with my father on the hunt. This was before his sons were capable of hunting. My two brothers were younger than I. He told me to help him out all the time. I was at the age to help. I don't exactly know how old I was when I first accompanied my father on the hunt.

This was what we first did in the fall. This was when we still lived at Ahchigunigip (Seal River). We always lived at Ahchigunigip. We paddled there. There were times when only my father and I paddled when my mother was not well. It seemed as though my father and I were the only ones paddling even though that place is far. We also sailed when the wind was in our favour.

In the fall, the seal was really sought after. The seal was used for everything. Boots were made from the seal. The meat was eaten. The seal oil was saved. Back then, store-bought lard wasn't around as much to be used for making bannock or used to dip your food that was too lean. This was why the seal was very important. The seal was also fed to the dog teams. The dogs were strong and robust because of the raw seal blubber that was fed to them.

We lived at the mouth of Ahchigunigip where people used to hunt for geese. Geese were harvested and were sometimes salted. The salted geese were stored in barrels. People also made dried goose. The geese that were salted were kept in barrels.

People stayed there for a long time, only until the geese were gone for the winter. Sometimes, the shore would have a crust of ice all around. This was when we traveled up the river to where the trees are. There are no trees at the mouth of the river at Ahchigunigip. Only shrubs grow there.

We traveled up the river and lived where the trees are. The snow fell and before the frost set in, my father would tell me to go with him down to the coast. We sometimes used the dog team. He would tell me to go with him down to the coast to look for seal. The ground would be covered with snow but the water on the bay had not frozen yet. We would head down to the coast with our dog team. We didn't live that far away. We lived at the treeline. We lived in tents. My father and I headed to the coast and strapped the canoe to the sled so that we could paddle around. Sometimes, we left our canoe out there near the coast. My father tethered the dogs at the stop where we paddled out from. I was at the bow of the canoe and my father was at the stern. This was what we did when the wind was totally calm.

There were times when so many seals would pop up to breathe and my father didn't have time to have a good aim to shoot them. I would tell him, "Father, I'm so afraid of the seal popping up." He would say, "What will the seal do to you? It won't bother us. The seal doesn't bother around with anybody." I was probably still very young when we did this to be so fearful of the seal that popped up to breathe on the water.

Sometimes, he would kill one seal or two seals or even three seals. We would head back to the shore. We had not paddled out far. We paddled to where the islands were and simply floated there. You only floated when you hunted for seals. You didn't paddle around. This was when the water was calm. We would paddle to shore to bring in the seals my father had killed. We headed back to our home. We used the Inuit-type sled, the long one. We took the seals back home that my father had killed. He would ask me, "Why did you fear the seals so much?" I would say, "I thought that they would tip over our canoe." He would say, "Don't be so silly. Seals don't do that to people."

At our camp, he would distribute his catch with the others we lived with at camp. Everyone was given meat and blubber. My mother cleaned the sealskins and I used to help her. I don't really remember my sister Maria living with us. She was in the hospital for a long time. This was before when I went to residential school. A winter lodge was made. Our tents still stood there and the people went over during the day to build the winter lodge.

I always knew my father wanted the lodge to be built near a good source of firewood. That area was burnt by a forest fire. This was at A Nadoyashich (Little Point). This was an area of burnt standing trees from a forest fire long ago. It had a good supply of firewood. This was where we lived near. The groups of trees that didn't burn in the forest fire, this was where our lodge stood. This was to be the shelter from the wind and blizzard. Our camp always stood in the lee.

It was only later that I knew why my father wanted to live in that area so as to not too far from firewood. Only women

gathered firewood in the past. The women secured the firewood. The young girls went with their mothers to get firewood and brought firewood back to camp. The teaching started at a young age. This was what I used to do as well.

Then the extreme cold set in. When the nets were first set beneath the ice, the fish were so beautiful, the ones laden with roe. These were the fish that people really wanted. These fish were roasted whole. They were so delicious when they were roasted whole on a roasting stick. When the cold set in, my father told me to accompany him to set a fishnet under the ice. When it was safe to be on the ice, we set the fishnets beneath the ice. I would help him. I mostly brought the things to him that he needed. I would also pull the net string.

In mid-winter, it was very cold. It seemed to be much colder back then than it is now. It used to be extremely cold. We didn't have much warm clothing either. I remember my grandmother. I used to stay with her. She would give me rabbitskin to wear as socks. My father and I would set out by dogsled. I was filled with joy as we rode on the dogsled. Sometimes we would be traveling for a while. We went through the forest and on lakes. I would hear my father chanting as we rode on the sled. I wonder what he sang about. It was probably about what he was doing and what he saw. I was happy to hear my father sing. I knew that he was content with what we did.

When we checked the nets, I would be so cold. My feet would be so cold even though I was wearing rabbitskins as socks. I would be so cold. It wasn't only one net that we checked, we checked many fishnets. My father also tended the nets for others who could not do much for themselves in old age. He would set the nets and check the nets and we would bring their fish to them.

After we checked all the nets, there were times when we caught so many whitefish and sometimes lake trout. My father would say, "Let's go to the trees and we'll make a fire and we'll drink." I would be so cold. I would not tell him that I was cold.

We used to check the fishnets. My father made me pull the net string to pull the net under the ice. We would go ashore to where the trees were. There were times when the forest was still green and hadn't been touched by a forest fire. But we still made a fire there. My father made a huge fire and I was filled with happiness because I was so cold.

We would bring along a fish pot and this was how he boiled fish. He would boil a fish that was slightly big. He'd say, "We'll eat this one." I was filled with joy to be with my dad. When the fish was done, we'd eat. If there were spruce boughs around, this is what we used as plates. He scooped out the fish from the pot and place it on the boughs and this was how we eat. I was filled with happiness. The hot broth was so delicious as well. This was what warmed me up. I felt like the cold left me. We then got ready to head back home. We left the net string there. As we traveled back home, I would start feeling the cold again because the ride was so long. There were times when we traveled against the wind. These are my memories of being with my father.

When he hunted for seals during the winter, I never went with him. The other men at camp went with him. But during the times before the harsh cold, that was when I went with him on the seal hunt. These are my memories of my father.

I was always glad to go hunting – ptarmigan hunting. I would leave on my own to go hunting. Many times, I brought food back home for us to eat. Others have mentioned witnessing the times of hunger. I did not experience this myself. But there were times when food was barely enough. The store-bought food always seemed to run out. This was what people ran out of. People always had the traditional Cree food.

Scaffolds were made to keep meat frozen during the winter. Ladders were also made. This was where people kept fish. Fish was what sustained the people. Fish were plentiful where we stayed. I used to go fishing and hunting seals with my dad.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James**

**Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay**

Please take notice that **ELECTIONS** for the office of Chairperson for the Cree Board of Health and Social Service of James Bay has been called.

The present is in accordance with the Election By-Law of the Cree Health Board enacted on June 13, 2008, stating that one member of the Board of Directors shall be the Cree representative elected by and from the members of the Cree Regional Authority.

The person, so elected shall be, ex-officio, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Cree Health Board for a term of four (4) years.

**Qualifications to Vote.**

The qualification for eligibility to vote in the elections is as follows:

a) To be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
b) To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on September 26, 2012)
c) Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

**Qualifications for Office.**

The qualifications of Candidates for office of the Chairperson of are the same as the qualifications to vote, save that:

- No one who is an employee or practices a profession with the Cree Health Board may be elected as the Chairperson unless that person resigns or ceases to practice upon being elected.
- Anyone who acts as a Returning or Assistant Returning Officer for these elections may not be a candidate.

**Nomination Procedures.**

Only persons who meet the qualifications and who is nominated in writing by fifteen (15) eligible voters on the nomination form provided may be a candidate for Chairperson.

The nomination form must be filed with the Returning Officer at least fifteen days prior to the date set for the Election date of September 26, 2012 by mail, telecopier, or e-mail.

The deadline for submission of the nomination forms is at **5:00 P.M on Friday, September 7, 2012.** Please be advised that nominations received after the posted time will not be accepted.

The nominees will have until **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 12, 2012** to inform the Returning Officer whether to accept or decline his/her nomination.

The Returning Officer shall specify the dates, the time and places of the advance and travelling polls and polling Stations at a later date.

The nomination forms can be obtained from the Local Returning Officers that have been appointed by the Chief Returning Officer as per the attached schedule or from the office of the Chief Returning Officer at:

**Lawrence Jimiken**
**Chief Returning Officer**
**1 Lakeshore Road**
**Nemaska, Quebec**
**J0Y 3B0**

**Tel: (819) 673-2512 ext. 233**
**Cell. : (819) 865-7094**
**Fax: (819) 673-2542**
**E-mail: lawrjimi@hotmail.com**

# A great success

## The Terres en vues festival has another great year

by Amy German

Finally breathing a sigh of relief, André Dudemaine was happy to share that 2012 has been yet another incredibly successful year for Montreal's annual Indigenous culture extravaganza, Terres en vues / Land InSights.

Running from July 31-August 8, this year's festival offered an incredible mix of cinema, live music, traditional arts and crafts, culinary delights, poetry and visual arts.

"Just about everything listed happened with no cancellations. We had good weather for most of the outdoor events and we had a steady flow of people coming through to enjoy the concerts and shows," said Dudemaine.

He was also happy to boast that the poetry evening at the Grand Bibliothèque had a full house and the film festival enjoyed jam-packed audiences. Seeing how hard it can be to get folks indoors during the heydays of summer, Dudemaine sees this as quite the feat.

With such excellent patronage from Montrealers, tourists and Indigenous peoples from Quebec and abroad, Dudemaine said he feels that this year's festival unfolded just perfectly.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Société de développement de la Baie-James

### Registration on the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ) Supplier File

Within the framework of its call for tenders process by general invitation, the SDBJ invites contractors interested in becoming a part of its supplier file to present their candidacy for certain auxiliary services of which the estimated cost is equal or superior to $100,000 but lower than $1,000,000. The supplier file will be valid for the years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

To allow a greater number of suppliers to qualify for its supplier file, the SDBJ has changed the requirements for the file's various specialities.

The auxiliary services targeted include the following specialities:

- General cleaning and maintenance
- Building renovation
- Road snow and ice removal
- Mechanical bush clearing
- Gravel/stone crushing
- Grain sifting
- Road maintenance
- Bulk shipment

**Eligibility:**
Have a place of business in the James Bay territory.

**To obtain the registration form:**
819 739-4717, extension 1264
chantal.brassard@sdbj.gouv.qc.ca
www.sdbj.gouv.qc.ca

**Cost of registration on the supplier file:**
Non-refundable $50 payment (including taxes).

**For information:**
Ms. Chantal Brassard
at 819 739-4717, extension 1264.

**Registration period:** Any time.

Josée Roy, CPA, CA
Administrative Manager
and Secretary-Treasurer

Québec

# Pennies for Attawapiskat

Every year the Canadian government produces approximately 1.5 billion pennies. Every year, that is except for this one. As of this year the Canadian penny will disappear and no longer be produced.

It is my idea to help the penny make a huge difference in First Nations communities. 1.5 billion pennies will provide 10 new playgrounds in northern communities that don't have one and 2 foster homes in Attawapiskat First Nation - keeping the children close to home.

Please help me by collecting and sending your pennies to do one last heroic thing for our First Nations children.

**Wes Prankard**

Bring your pennies in to any TD Canada Trust
TD Canada Trust for Northern Starfish Acct:
151 5213225

Or, trade them in for a cheque or money order and send to:
NorthernStarfish
6283 Finlay Ave., Niagara Falls, ON L2G 4C4
For more information, please visit
www.northernstarfish.org

Wes Prankard building playground

*Here I am* the Grand Prix Teueikan of Montreal First Peoples Festival

"We had five feature films this year and all of them were directed by Indigenous filmmakers. This is indicative of the development and progress being made by Indigenous directors from around the world," said Dudemaine.

One of those films, *Here I Am* by Australia's Beck Cole, was the Grand Prize winner of the festival's Teueikan Award for Creativity, while second prize went to *Sip'ohi – El lugar del Manduré*, by Sebastiàn Lingiardi of Argentina.

Other winners included the CBC series *8th Fire*, which picked up the Grand Prize Rigoberta Menchu Award, while second place went to Krohokrenhum: "*Eu não posso morrer de graça*", by Vincent Carelli and Ernesto de Carvalho of Brazil. *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator*, by Pamela Yates of the United States won Best Documentary; *Aci ni mictacikateriten (Je commence à m'ennuyer)* by Sakay Ottawa of Canada got the Coup de coeur Télé-Québec prize and the Jeune Espoir Main Film. Best Short Film was *Whakatiki* by Louise Leitch of New Zealand and Amaqqut Nunaat by Canadian Neil Christopher was named Best Animated Film.

As this festival grows deeper roots with every year, this year's added features gave voice to a new concert event for emerging Indigenous artists as well as presenting a special showcase in collaboration with the Montreal Electronic Groove festival (MEG) for a special "Electro-Choc" concert. Appealing to the young, hip and fabulous, Indigenous youth partied with Montreal's nightlife scenesters to the sounds of A Tribe Called Red, DJ Mood and Foulane, gaining the festival a brand-new audience.

"WE HAD FIVE FEATURE FILMS THIS YEAR AND ALL OF THEM WERE DIRECTED BY INDIGENOUS FILMMAKERS. THIS IS INDICATIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS BEING MADE BY INDIGENOUS DIRECTORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD."

In another major first, the festival presented the world premiere of *Apu ui Nepaian (I Don't Want to Die)* by director Paul Rivet on the big screen at Place des Festivals. The film focuses on three homeless Aboriginals returning to their ancestor's way of life.

"It was great to screen this in downtown Montreal as that really is the home to the homeless," said Dudemaine.

With so many exhilarating moments and special events with a wow-factor, Dudemaine had a hard time prioritizing what really took the prize in terms of highlights. However, he said the one thing that stood out for him was the standing ovation that followed the festival's night of poetry.

"The standing ovation for the poets was something exceptional. You never get that kind of enthusiasm for them at a literary show," said Dudemaine.

Next to that, having electro heavy-hitters, A Tribe Called Red playing the festival accompanied by a major visual presentation was another memorable moment for Dudemaine.

"It was incredible to see all of those fun images and to hear that fun music. The performance sent such a strong message about the Aboriginal soul, emancipation and what we are today!"

In all, around 40,000 people attended this year's festival, making the event yet another stellar success.

"I DO BELIEVE THAT FOR US AS NATIVE PEOPLE, THE CREATOR CREATED US IN A WAY THAT ALLOWED US TO SURVIVE THROUGH TIMES OF PLENTY AND TIMES OF FAMINE AS THAT IS HOW OUR FOREFATHERS AND ANCESTORS USED TO BE."

Sol Awashish

HEALTH MATTERS

By Amy German

# Taking the good with the bad

## Report on Diabetes 2012

by Amy German

Hot of the heels of his "virtual walk" from Mistissini to Waskaganish, Sol Awashish, a member of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay's Chronic Disease team, made a special presentation at the Annual General Assembly of the Cree Nation to update the people about the latest statistics on the diabetes rate amongst Crees.

Once again, Awashish embarked on another virtual walk to represent the 500 km between Mistissini and Waskaganish to promote the virtues of exercise. This has been part of his annual AGA ritual, despite it being both difficult and physically grueling.

"When June rolled around I realized that it was almost summertime and that I only had two months to make it to Waskaganish. I had to walk 500 km in two months and so that turned into 10, 15 and sometimes 20 km per day that I had to walk. It takes me two hours to walk 10 km," said Awashish.

What is most redeeming about this walk for Awashish is that he believes his efforts are paying off. The message seems to be getting out and Crees have started walking more. At the same time, he was happy to report that the number of people being diagnosed with diabetes is dropping.

According to the latest numbers available from the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB), as of January 2012, 2086 Crees had been diagnosed with diabetes, of whom 96 were diagnosed as new cases in 2011 alone.

Breaking this down, of the 2086 cases, 2071 were diagnosed in adults who were 20 years old and over. Of these cases, the trend is that more women are being diagnosed than men, with 1,242 cases to 829.

What this means is that 22% of the adult population of Crees is affected by the disease or about one in five, with 18.6% of the coastal population being affected and 26.9% of the inland population being affected.

The rate of diabetes in Eeyou Istchee is 3.5 times higher than the rest of the province.

While less people may be being diagnosed annually, what troubles Awashish the most is that more than half of the new cases are individuals who are under 40 years old.

"More young people are starting to get diabetes and many of them are the second and third generation of families with diabetics. It's hereditary, so if there is a family history of it then people should get screened," said Awashish.

According to Awashish, this is a direct threat to the future of the Cree nation and so it is incredibly worrisome, particularly as the suffering is needless. Diabetes is entirely preventable.

However, obesity amongst Crees is rampant with eight out of 10 Cree adults being overweight, if not obese. It has become the norm.

"The reason we are seeing this is a mixture of things. There's that theory going around that we have the 'thrifty gene' [Native bodies hang on to calories] and scientists have really been debating that.

"I believe that for us as Native people, the Creator created us in a way that allowed us to survive through times of plenty and times of famine as that is how our forefathers and ancestors used to be. During times of famine our bodies would burn up the fat that we were storing. Now we are living in times of plenty where there isn't any starvation, but

we still have that gene," said Awashish.

In addition, many Crees eat pre-prepared foods bought in grocery stores or eat out in the restaurants and the problem only accelerates. What most people tend to bring home from the grocery store is what tastes good – which involves a lot of fat, sugar and salt.

Awashish said his department has tried working with local restaurants to create healthier menus. However, restaurants are more concerned with what people prefer to eat rather than what is healthy. And, he can't blame them as the restaurants are there to do good business, not make sure that their clients are eating properly. If a healthy menu isn't selling, it is no surprise when a restaurant turns around and serves something else.

But when it comes to supermarket choices, it is becoming clearer that the people of Eeyou Istchee are choosing foods with poorer nutrition value because that is what they can afford. Many Crees can't buy the fresh fruits and vegetables available at their local stores because they cost too much.

"What I've noticed is that the price of junk food is pretty much the same in the north and in the south, but the price for healthy foods is really expensive. We need to find a way or a new program to subsidize the transportation of this food so that we can have healthy food that is reasonably priced. The people who work here have northern allowance to subsidize the cost of groceries, but a lot of others, like the seasonal workers, don't get a northern allowance," said Awashish.

On his arrival in Waskaganish, Awashish and serveral coworkers took to the streets of the community to bang on their pots and pans as a way of telling the Cree leadership that sometimes these pots and pans are empty because of the outrageous cost of food.

And if the population can't afford to eat properly then the suffering will only continue. In terms of that suffering, there are many Crees who not only have diabetes but also have complications caused by the disease.

"There are a lot of people who are on dialysis. That number has gone up within a five-year period from 2005 when there were 25 people to 2010 when there were 41, so it's almost double," said Awashish.

As part of the new Health Agreement, dialysis is now going to be offered in Waskaganish as well as other communities as there is a demand for it throughout the Cree nation. Kidney failure isn't the only complication; eyesight problems stemming from diabetes as well as the loss of limbs are also major issues amongst Crees.

"There are many complications amongst those who are third-generation diabetics and they are getting these complications at a much earlier age than before. I know a young woman who is 24 and has two children and she is on dialysis and that's really sad," said Awashish.

At the same time, the CBHSSJB recognizes that this is a major issue and there is a strong desire for the Board to work with the communities to provide healthier environments for the Cree people.

Because for every two men who have diabetes there are three women with it amongst the Crees, Awashish said the CBHSSJB is looking at how best to address this.

"We are recommending to the communities, that we now need to do more work with the women and young girls as they tend to gain more weight at a younger age and then you factor in the gestational diabetes. A lot of women are already heavy when they get pregnant.

"We need to work more with the young girls and women before they get pregnant. Some of the communities are actually working quite hard to do this. There are (now) activities that target these young women and this is a good sign," said Awashish.

by Lyle Stewart

# Public lands, private gains

## Feds' propose private property ownership to First Nations lands

I said goodbye to a close friend last week. No, no one died. This friend is a piece of land about nine acres large on the flank of a small mountain running down to a tiny lake, centred around a Swiss-chalet house built by Czech immigrants in the late 1960s.

It was the first property I owned. And in almost 13 years of playing, growing and loving there, my family and I grew deeply attached to it: to the trees, the streams, the animals and birds, even the smell of the air. The crunch of the snow in winter, the soft beds of moss in shady meadows, the sounds of my family and friends gathered round a fire late into a summer night.

These are life sensations one can have anywhere, to be sure. But this little piece of the earth was mine. In my mind, at least, it became a part of who I am, and the poignancy of each little experience and memory is that much deeper. But life is about change, and priorities change. Now someone else is looking after my old friend.

Perhaps because I grew up in rural and wilderness regions of Western Canada, the idea of owning one's own patch of ground is deeply engrained. But the notion of land ownership is a slippery one.

These were some of the emotions I was feeling when I read about the federal government's plans to introduce legislation to allow private property ownership on First Nations reserve lands in Canada. Sold as a way to spark First Nations economic development, it's a radical departure from the collective stewardship that is the backbone of the reserve system. The changes would affect about 366,000 people living on 2.7 million hectares of reserve territory in Canada.

I think it's an artificial, ideological proposal that would create more problems than it would solve. But I have to question myself: when I gained such deep satisfaction from owning my own little domain, why should First Nations people be deprived of the opportunity in their own communities?

For some nations, there could certainly be entrepreneurial gains to realize, especially on those close to large urban areas or in prime tourist regions. One could think of Kahnawake on the outskirts of Montreal. Or the Osoyoos territory of oft-lauded NK'MIP Chief Clarence Louie, who rarely misses an opportunity to promote a business solution to Native social challenges.

But there is something missing in the Conservative government's proposal, which could become law as early as 2014. Have the people directly concerned been asking for the right to individually own property on communally held reserve land?

The sound of crickets is deafening.

Federal Native Affairs Minister John Duncan says there is solid First Nations support for the change. But, apart from the predictable cheerleading from the punch-drunk Tory Senator Patrick Brazeau, few Native leaders have voiced support for the privatization of reserve lands.

The opposition is not so quiet. It is strongly opposed by the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo. And the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations issued a statement saying they were "outraged and insulted" for not being properly consulted on the legislation.

That's because there are major flaws to the proposal and because it's a solution that is being imposed with next to no demand by the people directly concerned.

Trevor Greyeyes, a writer and member of Manitoba's Peguis First Nation, is eloquent in listing the obvious drawbacks. First and foremost, he wrote in the Winnipeg Free Press recently, granting property rights to an impoverished population "will only erode a land base that is already too inadequate to sustain the current population".

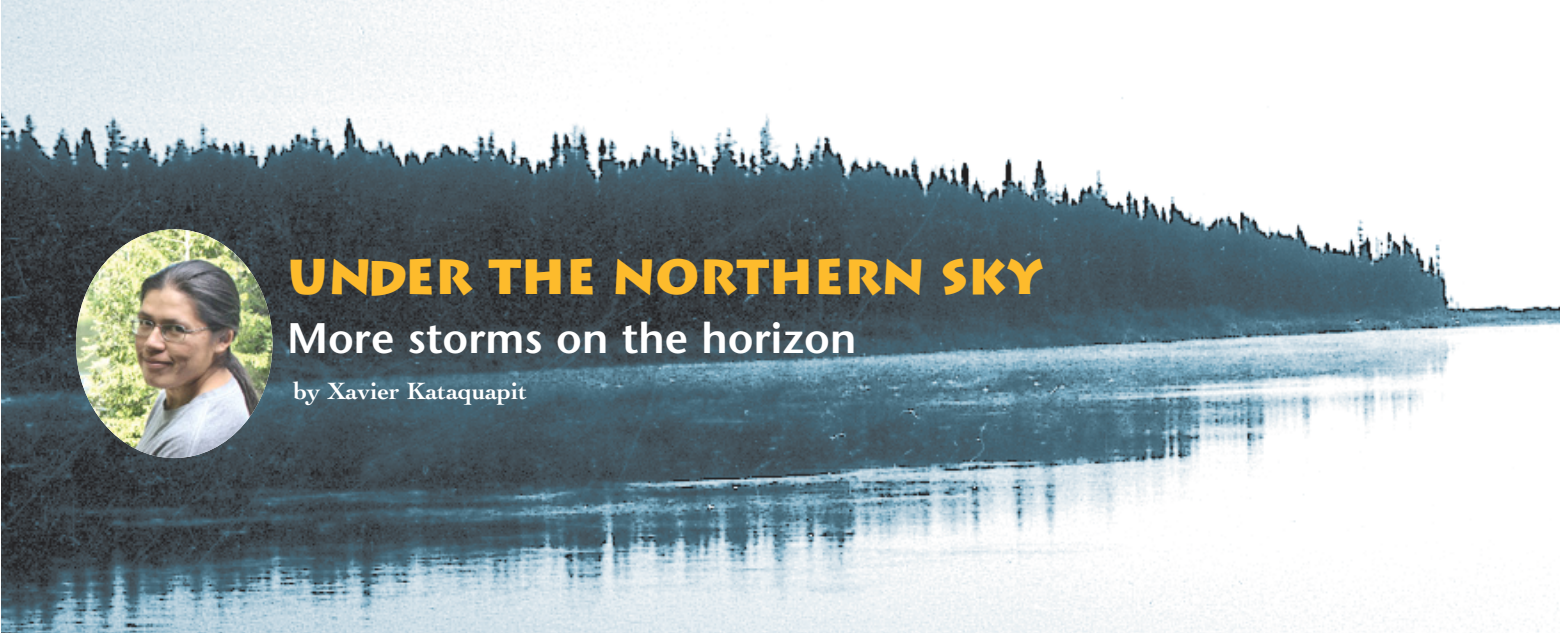
Given that most reserves in Canada are in remote areas with few natural resources or agricultural potential, the value of much of that land is theoretical at best, Greyeyes notes. That would make loans difficult to obtain, and would likely come loaded with onerous conditions that would almost ensure a high rate of personal and business bankruptcies.

Many people would end up worse off, highly indebted and beholden to Canada's rapacious banks. The winners would be the very people funding the Conservative Party in power in Ottawa.

This proposed law is one of a series of radical changes to the Indian Act the Tories have planned. The overall result will be to weaken community ties and benefits for the profit of a small economic elite, both on-reserve and off.

If a First Nation overwhelmingly supports the notion in a referendum, an argument could be made that the community should have the right to dispose of its lands as it sees fit. But, in most cases, the majority of people will end up deprived of the use of territory the community will once have enjoyed collectively.

And there's the rub. The added value that my family and I gained from my little patch of territory was only available to us because I am lucky enough to have had enough money to invest at a time land was much cheaper. But, in the end, I realize one can never truly own the land. Because the land ends up owning us.





# UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

## More storms on the horizon

by Xavier Kataquapit

I noticed in the news recently that there seems to be a move away from denying climate change or global warming. It looks like people are finally waking up to the fact that we humans are contributing to a situation that is causing change in the climate and weather patterns. Sadly, we have wasted a lot of time and missed a lot of opportunities to do our part to fight global warming. People seem to be coming out of denial now because the changes in weather patterns are just too obvious to ignore.

For example, consider the widespread drought of the United States and large parts of Canada. I notice in my immediate environment the changes that are happening. There has been much rain and terrible storms in the northern wilderness where I am spending the summer.

A few days ago, I experienced the most intense thunder-and-lightning storm ever in my life. There were a series of storms in my area and the worst awoke me at about three in the morning. This storm was terrifying as the lightning and thunder flashed repeatedly like a strobe light for over an hour. I felt as though I were in the heart of this great storm.

Native people have always been in awe of the force of thunder and lightning. I was raised to respect these powerful forces on the land. My Elders told me of a Cree mythology of the origins of thunder and lightning. Even though we lived in the flat lands of the western James Bay mushkeg, there were stories and legends of high mountains in the west that rose up and met the sky. My people believed that these high places was where lightning and thunder originated and these phenomenon were thought of as living entities that travelled with the storms and clouds. They came in different sizes, shapes and intensities so people pointed out the small young ones that briefly flashed or the great old ones that came down as powerful lightning bolts.

In our language lightning is known as Ominiskoo. It is the origin of more modern words we use to describe anything having to do with electricity. Batteries of any sort are referred to as Ominiskoo and electrical wires are known as Ominiskoo-Api.

Scientifically, lightning is actually a very powerful force. A lightning bolt has an average peak-power output of about one trillion watts, or one terawatt, and the strike lasts only 30 millionths of a second or 30 microseconds. At this energy output, the lightning heats the surrounding air in its immediate vicinity to about 20,000 degrees Celsius or 36,000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is about three times the temperature of the surface of the sun. The sudden heating from a lightning bolt super heats the surrounding air and creates a supersonic shock wave. This shock wave is what we hear as thunder.

Tall trees are conductors of lightning because they are often the highest point in the landscape. However, the sap inside trees is a poor conductor of electricity so when lightning strikes a tall pine, the sap is instantly superheated into steam and explodes. Lightning striking trees is often the source of forest fires in many remote forested areas.

You can judge the distance of a lightning strike by counting how many seconds it takes for the sound of thunder to follow a flash of light. It is estimated that a flash preceding thunder for three seconds is about one kilometre away. Or for a mile, it's five seconds.

There isn't much you can do to avoid the power of these huge thunderstorms that are becoming more regular in parts of the country. Scientists tell us that as weather patterns change due to global warming we can expect more volatile and violent weather.

Don't ever take shelter under a tree during a thunderstorm and try not to get caught out in the open on a lake, river or flat area. The safest places are inside a vehicle or a building.

The fact is that the recent thunderstorm I experienced really scared me. After all, I was surrounded by tall pine and poplar trees in the wilderness. I guess I am just going to have to get accustomed to bigger and more violent thunderstorms and that is not going to be easy.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

Happy 20th birthday on Aug. 5 to Dawn Grant from 409 Wolverine Road, Chisasibi, Qc

I would like to wish my grandson Emerson Delray Cooper-Moses a Happy 1st birthday on Sept. 27th. Jabweh nooshim already 1 year old; Gookum is always going to be there for you. God Bless and enjoy your dad. Love hugs, and kisses from Gookum Stacy Murdoch

I would like to wish my daughter Krisanne Moses a Happy 13th birthday on Sept. 27th. She celebrates her birthday on the same day as my grandson Emerson and he will be turning 1 year old. When he was born she was so happy that she will be sharing the same birthday with her nephew. Love you Inndance! From your mother Stacy Murdoch xoxo

Wow already our daughter Gabriella Linda Shanisha Ottereyes will be turning 4 years old on Sept 3rd, 2012 and will also be starting Pre-kindergarten this fall. Happy 4th birthday to our girl! We love you very much. From: Mom & Dad.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 2nd anniversary to my husband and my best friend Jesse Blacksmith. We are so lucky, not only did we find love, we also found friendship! May every hour of every day be blessed with a shining gift of joy, a dream to share together, a memory that's forever, a promise that the best is yet to come! xoxo Mrs. Blacksmith

## PERSONAL MESSAGES

To my love/husband/partner/best friend/hunting partner/etc. lol I am so thankful and blessed that God gave me you to be my husband. I promise to love you every single day of forever - you complete me in every way. I know we argue sometimes but I promise things are going to be better in life as we grow old together. I want to thank from the bottom of my heart our best friends Patricia and Conrad for all their help. <3 Agooda thank you. Xoxoxoxoxxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth Helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parents' Helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333 (www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688 (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553 (www.suicide-quebec.net/)

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

**Concordia University, Montreal:**

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.


PETRONOR
www.petronor.ca

**Distributor of petroleum products and lubricants in the James Bay Territory.**

**Services:**
- Delivery of petroleum products in bulk
- Aviation fuel
- Rental of movable tanks

**Products:**
- Unleaded gas, clear and colored diesel, stove oil, Jet-A, 100LL and lubricants.

**Addresses:**

***Radisson Depot:***
Tel.: (819) 638-8222
Fax: (819) 638-7107

***La Grande Rivière Airport:***
Tel.: (819) 638-4547
Fax: (819) 638-4547

***EM-1 Construction Site:***
Tel.: (819) 865-2045
Fax: (819) 865-2039

***Sarcelle Construction Site:***
Tel.: (819) 672-2358
Fax: (819) 672-2411

***Chisasibi Gas Station:***
Tel.: (819) 855-2427
Fax: (819) 855-3462

***Administration office:***
Tel.: (819) 824-5505
Fax: (819) 824-5420

# Your Northern Airline of choice!

Air Creebec

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

# Too School for Cool?

## Enter the Nation's Back to School Contest

### Win one of three fabulous prizes

$100 gift certificate from Papeterie Commerciale Buro Plus
$100 cash prize from the Nishkamoon Corporation
$175 value -1 night stay and breakfast for two from Hotel du Fort in Montreal

**To enter – Tell us:**
***Where's the best place to get school supplies?***

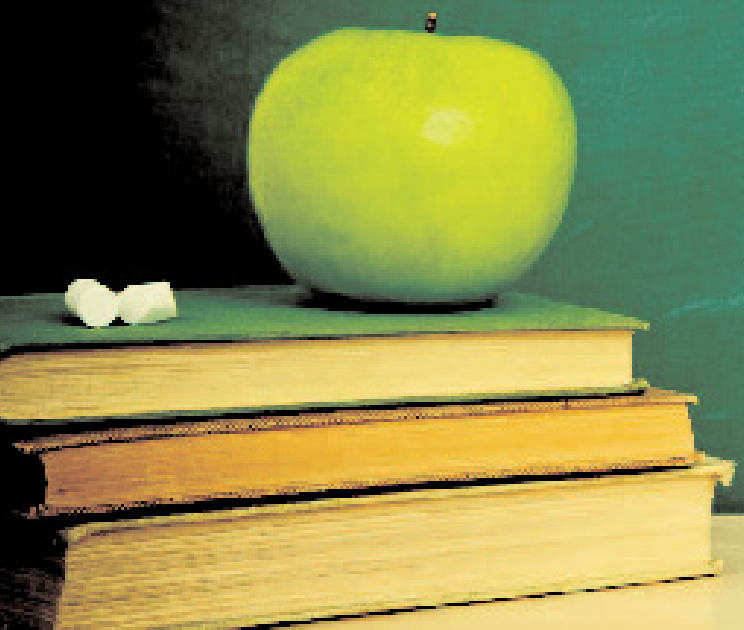
Scan to enter online*

Scan to enter on Facebook* - "Like" our page, post your answer on our wall

**Contest ends** August 27th, 2012 at 11:59 pm
**Winners** will be announced on our website, Facebook page and in the Nation on **September 7**

You can also **enter the contest** at Facebook.com/NATIONnewsmagazine or Nationnews.ca

*Visit http://get.beetagg.com with your phone's web browser – iPhones, get QR reader in App Store



Papeterie Buro Commerciale
Val-d'Or - Amos - Malartic
Val-d'Or 819-824-2721
Malartic 819-757-3161
Amos 819-732-5201

Nishkamoon Corporation

Hôtel du Fort Montréal

the Nation
www.nationnews.ca